

Christmas, Ancient and Modern

A presentation in two parts.

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Part One: **Traditions** 20:00

Stage Right, Modern

Center, Bible Truth

Stage Left, Ancient

SONG: THE HOLLY AND THE IVY 03:00

Scripture Reading: (from Romans 1:18-23

when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful;
but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened 00:30

SONG: HYMN 98 – I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day 04:00

Scripture Reading: (from Matthew 10:16-39)

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light:
and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul:
but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 01:00

SONG: DECK THE HALLS 02:00

Scripture Reading: (from Proverbs 31:1-9; Proverbs 23:20-21)

Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.
Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton
shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. 01:00

SONG: WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS 03:00

Scripture Reading: (from Proverbs 3:27-28; James 2:14-17)

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.
Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.
What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works?
can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;
notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body;
what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 01:30

SONG: GOOD KING WENCESLAS 03:00

Scripture Reading: (from Luke 14:16-24; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:
And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.
And they all with one consent began to make excuse.
The master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the
city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.
None of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.
And such were some of you. 01:00

Lighting turned off, only oil lamps lit.

Part Two: **Nativity – Manger Scene Deconstruction** 25:00 minutes

Center Stage, Mixed Manger Scene, set pieces move to SL/SR as directed.

Lighting turned back on, as in Part One.

SONG: HYMN 94 – What Child Is This? 04:00

(STAGE LEFT) Choir, standing, being seated in the Back Row of the Sanctuary

SET: *Erect Mixed Manger Scene while Choir sings*

Scripture Reading: (Matthew 1:18-25) 01:30

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

SONG: HYMN 85 – Silent Night (vs 1) 01:00

Choir, standing, being seated in the Back Row of the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading: (Luke 2:8-16) 01:30

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

SET: *Move Shepherds to Stage Right, Realistic Angel in White set up Stage Right.*

SONG: We Three Kings of Orient Are (vs 1) 01:00
Male Trio

Scripture Reading: (Matthew 2) “there came wise men from the east” **08:00**

SET: Move Three Kings, raise Joseph, Mary and child Christ at Stage Left, remove big star from tree, hang field of tiny stars on wall Stage Left

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

SET: Big Star removed from tree, Star Field hung on wall, Stage Left.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

SET: Three Kings disappear.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

SET: Joseph, Mary and Jesus leave.

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

SET: Joseph, Mary and Jesus return.

Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

SONG: HYMN 100 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1) 01:00
Choir, standing, being seated in the Back Row of the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading: (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) 01:30

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

SET: During “Joy to the World,” Branches of Tree removed, Center Stage

SONG: HYMN 87 – Joy To The World (vs 1, Congregation Seated) 01:00
(STAGE LEFT) Choir, standing, being seated in the Back Row of the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading: (Galatians 4:4-5) 00:30

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

SET: Cross piece of cross erected Center Stage

SONG: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (vs1, Congregation Standing, and Remain Standing) 01:00

Scripture Reading: (1 John 2:1-2; John 5:24) 03:00

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Closing Prayer

SET: ALL Stage Lighting off, piano plays What Child Is This once, count 5 then House Lights up.

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